

## WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.

### ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

#### *Purpose of checklist:*

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

#### *Instructions for applicants:*

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

#### *Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:*

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

#### A. BACKGROUND THE

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: **Management Strategy for the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife's Forests.**
2. Name of applicant: **Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife**
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:  
**Richard Tveten**  
**1111 Washington Street SE**  
**Olympia, WA 98501**  
**(360) 902-2367**
4. Date checklist prepared: **April 21, 2014**
5. Agency requesting checklist: **Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife**
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): **This is a non-project proposal. It is related to the adoption of a management strategy. The strategy would take effect upon approval by the director of the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (possibly summer 2014). The strategy could be used for decades.**
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.  
**Yes. New lands may be added to the forest management strategy as new properties are acquired.**

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. **Wildlife area management plans will be updated to enable implementation of the strategy. Forest inventories will also be conducted as needed.**

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

**Yes. WDFW is the process of developing a Wildlife Areas Habitat Conservation Plan. Future projects conducted in accordance with the forest management strategy will comply with Wildlife Areas Habitat Conservation Plan conservation measures. Likewise, Forest Practice Applications (FPAs) will be required for projects implemented under the strategy.**

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

**The strategy must be approved by the director of the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. All projects will require Forest Project Applications (FPA) from the Department of Natural Resources whether the strategy is adopted or not.**

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

**This is a non-project proposal involving the adoption of a forest management strategy. The management strategy describes the forests owned by WDFW, its vision for them and how they will be managed to achieve that vision. The purpose of the document is to provide a clear, consistent strategy to ensure that limited resources are effectively used to manage the agency's roughly 200,000 acres of forest as fish and wildlife habitat. Approximately half of WDFW's forests are in relatively good condition or are on natural trajectories to become so and need no active management. The remaining forests have been impacted by harvest activities prior to acquisition, have become degraded by widespread fire exclusion or are at risk to severe insect outbreaks and wildfires. Such forests may require active management to restore or maintain desired conditions.**

**The first section describes the various forest types managed by WDFW including their historic conditions, current conditions (which are often very different from historic conditions) and desired ranges of future conditions to meet ecological, social and economic objectives. The second section defines agency management strategies and how work will be prioritized, implemented and tracked. The third section is intended to be a resource for project proponents and includes both standards and procedures to ensure that projects are properly planned, executed and documented.**

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

**The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife manages forests on wildlife areas throughout the state. The following link provides descriptions of all wildlife areas and maps showing where they are located. [http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife\\_areas/](http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/)**

## **B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS**

### **1. Earth**

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other . . . . .

**WDFW forests occur on all types of terrain, elevations, soils, and moisture regimes that support the growth of trees.**

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

**Approaching 90%.**

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

**All major types of soil that can support tree growth in Washington.**

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

**Yes, some wildlife areas have places with unstable soils. Examples include**

- Mount St. Helens Wildlife Area - the Toutle River debris flow
- Oak Creek Wildlife Area – deep seated landslides
- Methow Wildlife Area – post wildfire landslides.

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. Any future projects implemented per the strategy involving substantial filling or grading will, as required, estimate quantities of material used and identify sources of fill.**

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. Projects will comply with Forest Practice standards to minimize erosion.**

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. All projects implemented per the strategy will comply with Forest Practice standards designed to minimize erosion.**

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any.

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. All projects implemented per the strategy will comply with Forest Practice standards designed to minimize erosion.**

## 2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. All projects implemented per the strategy will comply with DNR smoke permitting requirements.**

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal.**

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal.**

## 3. Water

a. Surface:

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. There are numerous water bodies on wildlife areas. Projects implemented per the strategy will comply with SEPA as required and identify relevant water bodies.**

- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. As required, projects implemented per the strategy will comply with SEPA and describe work in, over or adjacent to water.**

- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. As required, projects with the potential to impact water bodies will be required to complete SEPA and provide such details.**

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.



**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal.**

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

**The management strategy includes areas within hundred year flood plains but this is a non-project proposal.**

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal.**

b. Ground:

1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. The management strategy would not lead to projects involving ground water withdrawals.**

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. The management strategy would not lead to any projects involving the discharge of waste materials the ground water.**

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. Large projects with the potential to impact water bodies will likely be required to complete SEPA and provide such details at the project level.**

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal.**

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. All WDFW projects follow Forest Practice rules. When feasible, work is conducted on snow or frozen ground. Most projects are thinning projects designed to improve forest ecological integrity in which ample vegetation remains intact and hydrology is maintained.**

4. Plants

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. The following types, however, are found in WDFW forests.**

X\_\_\_\_\_ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

X\_\_\_\_\_ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

X\_\_\_\_\_ shrubs

X\_\_\_\_\_ grass

X\_\_\_\_\_ pasture FPA

\_\_\_\_\_ crop or grain

X\_\_\_\_\_ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other

\_\_\_\_\_ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

\_\_\_\_\_ other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. Projects completed in accordance with the strategy, however, will involve removing and planting of trees. Brush is sometimes removed to reduce fire hazards.**

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

**The following list of threatened and endangered plant species that are known to occur in or near Washington forests could potentially be encountered in\* or near forests managed by WDFW (Source: DNR Natural Heritage Program).**

**Australagus pulsiferae – State endangered**

**Dodecathon austrofulgidum – State endangered**

**Lupinus sabinianus - State endangered**

**\*Ranunculus tritermatus – State endangered**

**Botrichium herperium – State threatened**

**Botrichium paradoxum – State threatened**

**Carex tenera - State threatened**

**Carex tenuiflorum - State threatened**

**\*Cypridium parviflorum - State threatened**

**Filipendula occidentale - State threatened**

**Polemonium carneum - State threatened**

**Ribes oxycanthoides - State threatened**

**Sidalcea hirtipes - State threatened**

**Trifolium plumosum – State threatened**

**Trifolium thompsonii - State threatened**

**\*Silene spaldingii – State and federally threatened (not in but possibly along forest edges)**

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

**This is a non-project proposal but the strategy calls for all projects to use native vegetation with the goal of maintaining or improving ecological integrity.**

## **5. Animals**

a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

**All of the above listed birds, mammals and fish (excluding bass and herring) are present within the forest management strategy areas.**

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

**Nearly all threatened and endangered species that occur (see below list) in Washington forests could potentially be encountered on or near areas covered by the strategy. The following species are either known to occur on or near WDFW forest lands or are wide ranging species that could potentially be found on wildlife area forests, especially as recovering species spread. To ensure that threatened and endangered species are not harmed the strategy requires that all projects comply with the forthcoming Wildlife Areas Habitat Conservation Plan, Forest Practice rules (which were created to protect threatened and endangered species) and recovery plans created in association both existing and future listings.**

**Western Grey Squirrel - state threatened**

**Steelhead (multiple stocks) – federally threatened**

**Chinook Salmon (multiple stocks) - federally threatened**

**Northern spotted owl – federally threatened and state endangered**

**Mazama pocket gopher- state threatened**

**Marbled murrelet – Federally and state threatened**

**Lynx – Federally and state threatened**

Grizzly bear – Federally threatened  
Coho salmon (lower Columbia) federally threatened  
Chum salmon (lower Columbia and Hood Canal) - federally threatened  
Bull trout – that federally threatened  
Columbia white tailed deer – Federally and state endangered.  
Fisher – State endangered

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

**Yes, some of WDFW forest lands were specifically acquired to protect migration routes, especially for deer, elk and waterfowl. One of WDFW's conservation priorities is to preserve habitat connectivity.**

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

**The main purpose of this non-project proposal is to define a long-term strategy for enhancing wildlife habitat.**

**The forest management strategy is intended to preserve and enhance wildlife by implementing projects that maintain or improve:**

- ecological integrity
- improve habitat quality of threatened and endangered species
- improve habitat quality for priority fish and game species
- reduce fuels and the probability of unnaturally large, catastrophic wildfires
- reduce the probability of unnaturally large and intense insect outbreaks.

## **6. Energy and natural resources**

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal.**

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. It is not anticipated that any future projects in association with the strategy would affect the potential use of solar energy.**

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. Future projects may generate renewable biofuels.**

## **7. Environmental health**

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. In the long term, the strategy could reduce environmental health hazards associated with wildfires.**

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal.**

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. In the long term, the strategy could reduce environmental health hazards associated with wildfires. Individual projects sometimes remove hazard trees near roads, campgrounds and other high use areas.**

## **b. Noise**

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal.**

- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. Future projects will comply with SEPA when necessary and identify sources of noise.**

- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal.**

## **8. Land and shoreline use**

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. Wildlife areas are maintained as habitat for fish and wildlife as well as wildlife-related recreation.**

- b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

**Some forests were previously cleared for agriculture but subsequently abandoned and naturally filled back in the trees.**

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

**Wildlife areas contain relatively few structures. Wildlife areas contain offices, barns and sheds. Other structures include water diversions and bridges.**

- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal.**

- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

**Wildlife areas are classified as wildlife habitat, forest land or open space.**

- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

**Comprehensive plans should identify wildlife areas as wildlife habitat, forest land or open space.**

- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. Shoreline master program designations will be identified as specific projects as are developed.**

- h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

**WDFW considers all of the wildlife area forests to be environmentally sensitive as they are managed for fish and wildlife and the public enjoyment thereof.**

- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. Other than a few wildlife area managers with onsite housing, wildlife areas are uninhabited. In general only a couple staff members work on each wildlife area.**

- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal.**

**But**

- j. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal.**

1. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. Also, the strategy is intended to enhance existing land uses, not change them.**

#### **9. Housing**

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal.**

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

**Not applicable.**

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

**Not applicable.**

#### **10. Aesthetics**

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

**Not applicable.**

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. In many cases, the strategy will lead to projects that make forests more open with less obstructed views.**

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. WDFW's strategy to improve forest health and habitat quality should usually result in improved aesthetics .**

#### **11. Light and glare**

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal.**

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

**Not applicable.**

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

**Not applicable.**

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

**Not applicable.**

#### **12. Recreation**

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

**Wildlife areas are used for hunting, fishing and wildlife compatible recreational activities**

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. Potential projects could temporarily restrict recreation in project areas during thinning and burning operations. Projects, however, usually only occupy a small portion of any given wildlife area at a time.**



c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. In general, projects are scheduled to avoid peak times of recreation use like modern firearm hunting seasons.**

### 13. Historic and cultural preservation

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. Potentially listed places or objects are present within WDFW forests. Information regarding registered sites or eligible sites and their protection will be provided per SEPA as specific projects are developed.**

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

**Both historic and prehistoric sites exist within WDFW forest lands. Historic sites typically consist of homesteads, mines, cemeteries, and dumps. Pre-historic sites typically contain lithic scatter, fractured rock or other evidence of inhabitation.**

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

**Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. As required per Forest Practice rules, archaeological surveys are conducted to obtain site specific information so that potential impacts can be avoided. WDFW strategies to reduce impacts include avoiding sensitive areas, working on snow or frozen ground and using equipment that minimizes soil disturbance.**

### 14. Transportation

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

**Not applicable. Such details will be provided as necessary as projects are developed.**

b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

**Not applicable. This is a non-project action. Also, forest management project sites tend to be too remote to be served by transit.**

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

**Not applicable.**

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

**Not applicable. This is a non-project action.**

If e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

**Not applicable. This is a non-project action. On rare occasions WDFW projects uses helicopters to transfer logs to landings. It is possible that log or wood pulp purchasers may ship materials by rail.**

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

**Not applicable. This is a non-project action.**

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

**Not applicable. This is a non-project action. Measures to control transportation impacts will be provided as necessary on a project-by-project basis.**

### 15. Public services

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

**Not applicable. This is a non-project action. It is anticipated that the plan would have long-term benefits in terms of fire protection costs by reducing wildfire hazards.**

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

**Not applicable. This is a non-project action. It is not anticipated that projects under this plan would have any negative impacts on public services.**

#### 16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

**Not applicable. This is a non-project action. Such utilities are generally not available in remote forest sites.**

- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

**Not applicable. This is a non-project action. Such utilities are generally not available in remote forest sites.**

#### C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: Richard T. Webb

Date Submitted: 4/21/14

## D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

(do not use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

**The strategy may lead to increased thinning and prescribed burning projects to the degree that funding can be obtained. Forest management projects related to the strategy could cause modest increases in erosion, noise, emissions to air in the form of dust and exhaust, and increase the potential for equipment-related spills. Increased forest management, however, will lead to greatly reduced potential for wildfire and wildfire suppression-related emissions, hazardous substance releases, noise and post-fire erosion.**

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

**Not applicable.**

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

**The primary purpose of the forest management strategy is to preserve and enhance wildlife by strategically implementing projects that**

- **maximize ecological integrity**
- **improve habitat quality of threatened and endangered species**
- **improve habitat quality for priority fish and game species**
- **help stabilize steep slopes and streams after wildfires**
- **reduce fuels and the probability of unnaturally large, catastrophic wildfires**
- **reduce the probability of unnaturally large and intense insect outbreaks.**

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

**Implement forest restoration projects.**

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

**Projects are intended to enhance natural resources by restoring ecological integrity and improving forest health. Some energy will be consumed transporting wood products. Generating wood products locally, however, reduces the need for importing wood from elsewhere. Some renewable energy may be generated as biofuels technologies and markets evolve.**

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

**The proposed plan is intended to reduce the probability of catastrophic insect outbreaks and wildfires which can substantially degrade habitats, water quality, air quality, and destroy homes of which require large amounts of energy and natural resources to replace. Implementing the plan also reduces the amount of energy and resources needed to suppress wildfires.**

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

**The primary purpose of the forest management strategy is to preserve and enhance wildlife area forests by strategically implementing projects that**

- **maximize ecological integrity**
- **improve habitat quality of threatened and endangered species**

- improve habitat quality for priority fish and game species
- help stabilize steep slopes and streams after wildfires
- reduce fuels and the probability of unnaturally large, catastrophic wildfires
- reduce the probability of unnaturally large and intense insect outbreaks.

Projects will be designed to avoid or minimize impacts to areas with cultural resources.

As the plan will prioritize work to more efficiently improve ecological integrity, habitat quality and forest health, it is anticipated that the plan will improve wetlands and help stabilize river flow regimes on floodplains both on wildlife areas and downstream properties.

Under this plan projects can be designed to maintain or improve wild and scenic rivers by maintaining healthy forests that are resistant to catastrophic insect outbreaks and wildfires.

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

The purpose of the strategy and the actions that it recommends is to protect and enhance sensitive wildlife areas. The plan will comply with Forest Practice rules and the Wildlife Areas Habitat Conservation Plan and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act to ensure that unintended impacts are avoided.

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

**Not applicable.**

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

**Per Forest Practice rules, buffers would be maintained to avoid impacts to shorelines.**

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

**The plan would have no impact on transportation demands services are utilities. The level of forest management work would not change. The plan prioritizes work so that benefits can be realized more efficiently.**

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

**Not applicable.**

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

**The proposed plan is intended to ensure more efficient and effective compliance with and local, state and Federal laws for protecting the environment.**



